

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: September 2, 1999

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on August 27, 1999

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Francis X. Lyons
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, and training/conferences:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

Emergency Response, Waubansia Mercury, Chicago, Illinois

On August 24, 1999, On-Scene Coordinators Walter Nied and Verneta Simon, and the Superfund Technical Assistance and Response Team (START) responded to an emergency call regarding exposure to mercury. Over the weekend, a teenager had been hospitalized for mercury poisoning and his family was concerned about their health, since the 16-year had been dipping jewelry into mercury inside the family's apartment. In addition, some of the mercury had been spilled in the apartment and the floor had been mopped. Air monitoring performed inside the apartment indicated mercury levels were as high as 0.097 milligrams per cubic meter. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) recommends that indoor residential levels should not exceed 0.003 milligrams per cubic meter. Therefore, \$50,000 was verbally approved by the Emergency Response Branch Chief Rick Karl to conduct a cleanup of this apartment.

Contacts: Verneta Simon (312-886-3601)
Walter Nied (312-886-4466)

Complaint Filed, Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers, Cincinnati, Ohio

On August 24, 1999, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and

Prevention, issued an Administrative Complaint against Pepsi-Cola General Bottlers ("Pepsi"), Cincinnati, Ohio, for failing to immediately notify the National Response Center (NRC), the Ohio State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) and the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), of a release of 38,050 pounds of ferric sulfate which occurred from this facility on September 23, 1998. The release occurred when a fork lift driver accidentally hit the supply line to a ferric sulfate tank, causing the release of ferric sulfate onto asphalt that then migrated to a storm sewer and into a tributary of Mill Creek. Ferric sulfate is toxic to aquatic life. The facility was evacuated for over 2 hours and three employees were injured while attempting to mitigate the release. Ferric sulfate is a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) hazardous substance with a reportable quantity (RQ) of 1,000 pounds. This release was 38 times the RQ. Pepsi notified the NRC, SERC, and LEPC approximately 50 hours after the release. The Complaint proposes a \$83,325 penalty for the three violations. Pepsi has 30 days to respond to the Complaint.

Contact: Ruth McNamara (312-353-3193)

Pre-Construction Inspection Meeting, Woodstock Municipal Landfill Superfund Site, Woodstock, Illinois

On August 11, 1999, a pre-construction inspection meeting was conducted for the Woodstock Municipal Landfill Superfund site in Woodstock, Illinois. Present were representatives of the City of Woodstock and AlliedSignal (respondents to a Unilateral Administrative Order), their contractor (Conestoga-Rovers & Associates), U.S. EPA, and U.S. EPA's oversight provider (United States Army Corps of Engineers Omaha and Chicago District Offices). The \$8-million cleanup will have two phases. The current phase, which runs through October 1999, will prepare the site for construction of a landfill cap in Spring 2000. This work includes clearing the site, excavating contaminated wetland sediments and landfilling them on-site, sifting on-site soils for reuse as landfill cover, and closing unneeded on-site monitoring wells. The second phase will run through the 2000 construction season and will include regrading, contouring, geomembrane, drainage, topsoil, installing a landfill gas venting system, installing a surface-water and sedimentation control system, monitoring, and institutional controls on future uses of the site.

Contact: John O'Grady (312-886-1477)

Pre-Construction Inspection Meeting, Arcanum Iron & Metal

Superfund Site, Darke County, Ohio

The Arcanum Iron and Metal (AIM) Superfund Site, located in Darke County, Ohio, was a lead-acid battery breaking facility. Approximately 4,000 cubic yards of lead acid battery casing chips, and approximately 28,000 cubic yards of lead-contaminated soils will be cleaned up under a Consent Decree. The \$5.8-million project will focus on an 4-1/2 acre former disposal area for lead-acid battery casing chips and spent acid from the lead-acid batteries.

On August 18, 1999, a pre-construction inspection meeting was attended by representatives from the Village of Arcanum, Twin Township, Darke County, the Settling Defendants contractor (ENTACT), the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), U.S. EPA, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Omaha and Huntington District Offices. Since the remedial action contract has already been awarded, the next items for the Settling Defendants include initiation of construction, removal and stabilization of battery casing chips, and a pre-excavation confirmatory soil sampling report.

Contact: John O'Grady (312-886-1477)

Proposed Plan Public Meeting, Ramona Park Sanitary Landfill Site (Battery Casing Area), Shelby Township, Michigan

On February 24, 1999, the Office of Public Affairs' Community Involvement Coordinator and the Remedial Project Manager visited with Shelby Township leaders to discuss U.S. EPA's involvement with Battery Casing Area of the Ramona Park Sanitary Landfill site in Macomb County, Michigan. U.S. EPA released the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) to the public on July 19, 1999. On July 29, 1999, U.S. EPA held a public meeting to discuss the proposed cleanup plan for the site. Approximately 20 people attended, and many supported U.S. EPA's proposed cleanup action which involves excavating all soils greater than 400 milligrams per kilogram lead at the Battery Casing Area and ex-situ treatment and off-site disposal. Based on an August 16, 1999, Detroit News article, Shelby Township Supervisor Rick Bottcher supports U.S. EPA's proposed plan.

Contact: Kyle Rogers (312-886-1995)

Proposed Plan Public Meeting, Byron Salvage Yard Superfund Site, Byron, Illinois

On August 25, 1999, a public meeting was held to discuss the

proposed cleanup plan for the Byron Salvage Yard Superfund Site in Byron, Illinois. In the 1960s, the salvage yard operated as a junk yard where drums of electroplating wastes and other materials (oil sludges, paint sludges, cutting wheels, solvents, and scrap metal) were brought for disposal. Industrial wastes were reportedly dumped directly on the ground at times of heavy rainfall. The proposed groundwater remedy consists of: 1) improvement to the existing municipal water supply, including the installation of a new drinking water well and relocation of the existing pump station, 2) groundwater monitoring, including quarterly water level measurements and semiannual monitoring of approximately 35 existing monitoring and residential wells, and 3) deed restrictions or advisories placed on properties potentially affected by the plume. The estimated cost of the groundwater remedy is approximately \$3.5 million.

Contact: Tom Short (312-353-8826)

Proposed Plan Public Meeting, Record of Decision Amendment, Duell & Gardner Landfill Superfund Site, Dalton, Michigan

On August 19, 1999, U.S. EPA and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) held a public meeting to present the changes in the proposed remedy resulting from new findings of the Responsible Parties' pre-remedial design investigation (diminished or stabilized groundwater contamination). The new remedy proposed will retain the capping of the landfill and source excavation, will hold the pump & treatment system as a contingency plan, and will push forward with an aggressive monitoring plan. Attendees consisted of representatives from City of Muskegon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and people living near the site. Several questions were asked regarding when the cleanup will finally begin. No adverse comments were raised at the meeting.

Contact: Kyle Rogers (312-886-1995)

Community Outreach, Reclamation Oil Site, Detroit, Michigan

During the week of August 9-13, 1999, Emergency Response Community Outreach Coordinator Ginny Narsete, provided outreach activities on the Reclamation Oil site in Detroit, Michigan. The site is an abandoned chemical manufacturing, storage and distribution facility. Outreach activities included photo documentation of the site and canvassing the neighborhood talking with the local school officials and nearby neighbors. On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Kurt Grunert is keeping in touch daily with local neighbors giving them updates in site cleanup status. Next steps include a community meeting and an opportunity for the OSC to talk with the local school children about environmental issues

and the U.S. EPA Emergency Response Program.

Contact: Virginia (Ginny) Narsete (312-886-4359)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act Compliance Inspections, Plating Sector, Addison and Chicago, Illinois

On August 24, 1999, George Rancich and William Sandstrom, of Office of Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention (OCEPP), conducted two Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) compliance inspections in the Chicago area. The facilities inspected were among those which had not responded to a compliance assistance mailing by the Illinois State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). These mailings were part of a joint State/U.S. EPA Sector Initiative involving SIC Codes 3471 (plating and polishing) and 3479 (metal coating and coloring).

The facilities inspected were Mexicali Hard Chrome, Addison, Illinois, and ProTec Metal Finishing, Chicago, Illinois. One of the facilities was found to have chemical inventories exceeding the reporting thresholds for EPCRA Section 312. Results of the inspections will be documented in reports to OCEPP enforcement personnel for review and any appropriate follow-up action.

Contacts: George Rancich (312-886-6148)
William Sandstrom (312-886-6028)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

National Association of Remedial Project Managers Training Conference, Chicago, Illinois

On August 2-6, 1999, approximately 45 State project managers and over 100 U.S. EPA Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) participated in the National Association of Remedial Project Managers (NARPM) annual conference in Chicago, Illinois. The week began with two field trips: a "Brownfields Tour in Southeast Chicago," courtesy of the City of Chicago, and a "Kerr-McGee Superfund Sites" tour. The Opening Plenary Session included remarks from William Muno, Region 5 Superfund Director; Larry Reed, Office of Emergency and Remedial Response Deputy Director; and Michael Salmon, Senior Vice President of TRC Companies, Inc. Mr. Salmon's company is involved with evaluating and choosing redevelopment and beneficial reuse options at Superfund sites. The initial days of the conference consisted of training sessions on topics including cost estimating, media relations, public speaking,

redevelopment/reuse, remedial design/remedial action oversight, natural attenuation of chlorinated solvents, field based site characterization, leadership, operations and maintenance, and the removal process for RPMs. The final days were for group panel discussion sessions on program policy and technical areas such as Federal facilities, enforcement, groundwater, sediments, and much more. The meeting closed with new nominations for NARPM co-chairs. Region 3 will host next year's conference.

Contacts: Richard Jeng (703-603-8749)
 Dion Novak (312-886-4737)
 Bernie Schorle (312-886-4746)
 Brad Bradley (312-886-4742)

Counter-Terrorism Training, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

During the week of August 9, 1999, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Len Zintak participated in Counter-Terrorism field training exercises with the newly formed National Guard Rapid Assessment Initial Detection (RAID) Teams at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Currently there are ten 22-person teams, with plans to form up to 17 additional teams. The National Guard RAID Teams will be activated by the governors of their States and the teams will provide technical support to civilian response agencies in the field. When fully operational, the RAID Teams will be capable of detecting chemical, biological, and radiological materials in the field. The Region 5 Raid Team will be located near Peoria, Illinois, and they will respond to Counter-Terrorism incidents in all six States.

Contact: Len Zintak (312-886-4246)

Biological Weapon Table Top Exercise, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On August 20, 1999, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Rey Rivera attended a Biological Weapons Table Top Exercise in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This represented the final exercise of Train-the-Trainer Emergency Responder Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical (NBC) courses sponsored by the National Domestic Preparedness Program. The Domestic Preparedness Train-the-Trainer program is a Federally sponsored and funded effort designed to assist Federal, State and local agencies in preparing for and responding to an NBC terrorist incident.

The one-day "Measured Response" facilitated Table Top exercise took place at the Medical College of Wisconsin. The purpose of the exercise was to provide the local, State, and Federal participants with an opportunity to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities for response to a terrorist biologic attack at a local Summer festival. The successful exercise focused on the Milwaukee's role in the response to three

distinct phases of the response to a biologic incident:
Incubation, Initial Response, Response and Recovery.

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cc: Steve Herman (OECA)
Barry Breen (OECA)
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